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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,449	12/09/2004	Edmund Sander	028987.55399US	8622
23911	7590	01/23/2007	EXAMINER	
CROWELL & MORING LLP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP P.O. BOX 14300 WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300			LEWIS, TISHA D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3681	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/23/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/517,449	SANDER, EDMUND	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	TISHA D. LEWIS	3681	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 5-9 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 5,8 and 9 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 6 and 7 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a first action on the merits of application serial no. 10/517,449 filed on February 11, 2005.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed December 9, 2004 has been considered.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

-On page 5, line 1, after "pin", "32" should be changed to -34-.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities:

-To correct lack of antecedent basis, in line 2, before "gear axle", "the" should be changed to -a-. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The phrase “adapted to” raises a question as to the limiting effect of the limitations in the claim, see MPEP 2111.04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watson ('199). Watson discloses a gear (26) having at least one end of a gear axle (12) fixed or supported in bearings (18, 19) in a transmission housing (2) wherein one side of the axle is received in a bearing element (21, 20) which is bolted (Figure 2A) within the housing from the outside via a fixing element. The axle has a larger diameter (Figure 2A) between the bearing element and the gear to serve as a locating face (via splines) for the gear.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eckhardt et al ('750). Eckhardt et al discloses a gear (12) having at least one end of a gear axle (10) fixed or supported in bearings (22, 24) in a transmission housing (48) wherein one side of the axle is received in a bearing element (40) which is bolted within the housing from the outside via a fixing element (50).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 19950584A1. DE discloses a gear (not referenced) having at least one end of a gear axle (14) fixed or supported in bearings (13) in a transmission housing (9) wherein one

side of the axle is received in a bearing element (8) which is bolted within the housing from the outside via a fixing element (10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara et al (998) in view of Watson, Eckhardt et al and DE.

Hara et al discloses a manual transmission having a reverse gear wheel (42) wherein a gear axle (50) is bolted to the housing.

Watson, Eckhardt et al and DE disclose bearing arrangements for an axle as disclosed above.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Hara et al with a bearing arrangement in view of Watson Eckhardt et al and DE to provide easy assembly and disassembly of the shaft during maintenance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

-Haupt ('770), Maret ('809) and JP 05157156A.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TISHA D. LEWIS whose telephone number is 571-272-7093. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CHARLES A. MARMOR can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tdl
December 22, 2006

Tisha Lewis
TISHA LEWIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art 3681 12/22/06